User Manual

Version 3.0

Documentation for EazyDraw
versions 3.0 and newer.

eazydraw®

have fun drawing on OS X

Vector drawing software
application for the Macintosh.

This is a Sample of the manual - sample only.

Dekorra Optics, LLC

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This manual created and designed entirely with EazyDraw. Production included all text entry, spell checking, page layout, graphics integration, and electronic pdf pre-press production. Features used heavily were: link text boxes, flow around graphics, spell checking, find and replace, tabs with leaders, auto numerate.

Final assembly and publication was performed as a single drawing file, approximately 400 pages long. Work was performed on a Mac Pro 2.66 GHz Dual-COr Intel Xeon with 4 GB memory running OS X version 10.5. Very few CPU loading issues were noted. Drawing word count, as reported by EazyDraw's spelling and grammar palette was 118,333.

The cover of this manual was created and designed entirely with EazyDraw. All artwork on the cover was drawn with EazyDraw, using standard tools and techniques described in this manual.

Chapter

1 Welcome To EazyDraw

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Getting Started

Thank you for selecting EazyDraw, a vector drawing application designed exclusively for Mac OS X.

If you have used an earlier version of EazyDraw, we recommend that you read the README file provided with your CD or the downloaded disk image. This documentation is more dynamic and will be current with the version that you are using. This printed manual is designed for assisting those new to EazyDraw or vector drawing, and those in need of detailed reference information.

What Is EazyDraw

EazyDraw can do a lot of things but it has a focus and that is to allow one to draw lines, shapes, and free form curves on your computer screen. EazyDraw tries to provide this capability with friendly user interface. EazyDraw is not a painting application. Painting programs work with the little dots or pixels such as are used in digital photography, so you will not see the paint brush, paint bucket, or eye dropper tools in our user

interface. The drawings that you create with EazyDraw are constructed with mathematically-defined lines, shapes, and curves - these ideal perfect geometrical elements are then outlined and/or filled with color. If this is not making sense to you, don't worry this topic is actually the point of the entire manual, so hang in there.

While EazyDraw is not a painting application, it lets you add photos, scanned images, and bitmap clip art to your drawing. This makes it useful for integration and layout tasks such as creating an ad, poster, t-shirt art, or this book's cover.

While EazyDraw is not a CAD (Computer Aided Design/Drafting) application, it offers capability for creating basic technical drawings. Layers, measuring units, drawing to scale, and automatic dimensions are just some of the core CAD tools that are available and easy to master with EazyDraw.

Finally, EazyDraw is a true OS X application. It is not a converted unix program, nor co-developed for the PC. The first line of code was written on OS X for OS X. This makes it a (we hope) perfect OS X citizen that will work seamlessly with similar native OS X applications. In the spirit of this great OS X technology, everything sort of works just as you always thought it should.

Capabilities

EazyDraw is a vector based drawing application for desktop publishing (DTP) with Apple's Macintosh OS X (Mac OS-X) operating system. It is an illustration or drawing software application that offers vector-based graphics editing and creation capabilities for creating simple non-photographic drawings, technical diagrams and illustrations such as logos, icons, buttons and stylized art.

Applications

There are several specialized drawing applications available for the graphic arts, or architectural professional. We all know how much these cost and how hard they are to master. EazyDraw is drawing for the rest of us who want to have fun exploring our own creative potential.

EazyDraw is a new design tool for use on the Mac OS X platform. Its uses range from simple technical drawings, flow charts, business communications, commercial line art illustrations to graphic elements for application software and web design elements. Educators also find EazyDraw perfect for introducing new users to computer drawing.

Optimized for Intel

EazyDraw is provided as a Universal Binary. As you may know, Macs are now powered by the Intel Core processor. Mac's built prior to 2006 were built with a Motorola PowerPC processor. EazyDraw is made to run on both Intel- and PowerPC based Mac Computers. Simply install as usual and EazyDraw will automatically run at peak performance for your Mac's architecture.

If you are lucky enough to have one of the new Intel Macs, it is even more fun to draw with EazyDraw on your Mac. The Intel processor is generally 4-5 times faster than a PowerPC processor. Now, for many applications you might not notice a big difference; it may be that the application is not that CPU intensive, or the application's core technology may be a carry over from OS 9 and therefore does not fully utilize the new CPU's capability. But for EazyDraw users working with vector based graphics CPU speed is very important. EazyDraw is a new project, designed from the ground up exclusively for OS-X (a "Cocoa" application), with no design constraints from other operating systems.

Graphic File Formats

Graphic exchange with other modern OS X applications is quite seamless with full vector quality support for PDF. Our title bar export short-cut icon provides customizable drag and drop export to other applications. But in today's world one must exchange creative content with numerous other technologies - other operating systems, older technology applications, archive graphic files, the world wide web, and electronic publishing work flows (just to name a few). EazyDraw is the perfect solution for these interesting times.

EazyDraw provides a rich suite of supported graphic file formats for both import and export. This will allow you to use or provide high quality graphic images to or from other applications, other operating systems or the web. Full seamless support for PDF is "built in" since EazyDraw is a true native Mac OS X application. In most cases you should not need to involve a separate graphic converter application in your work flow. Our "ungroup" capability will let you edit PDF and PICT content.

File and desktop graphics exchange with older OS 9 technology applications that have been ported to OS X can be a problem for native OS X applications. At the time of this writing, programs like Microsoft Word, Power Point, and Excel do not provide vector quality support for the PDF graphic information format, they also have limited support for

transparency. EazyDraw provides file and desktop pasteboard support for the "Classic PICT" file format and a "Opaque Copy" option for use with these applications. These legacy file format options provide a method to include the older technology applications in your modern OS X work flow.

For Web publishing EazyDraw provides export to several widely used graphic bitmap formats. These include the Windows formats of BMP, ICO and even FAVICON. Full support for transparency is provided with all graphic file formats that support transparency.

Electronic publishing is supported with vector PDF and EPS import and export. Color space management and conversion is provided with our professional grade Export panel for these industry standard formats. Nearly all publishing or printing companies will accept the EPS vector format for graphics and typeset text. Professionals and perfectionists avoid font problems by converting type set text to Bezier paths before exporting to EPS, EazyDraw lets you do the same with a simple menu click.

User Interface

EazyDraw's parameter palettes are designed with a clean and open look. The size is not "big" but large enough to easily read and understand without being crowded. We understand that screen real estate is valuable, but on the other hand we have more than 640x480 pixels of desktop these days; so we feel that a new design concept is in order. Our design is not "frilly eye candy" but its sound approach is great for learning, valuable when returning to EazyDraw (if you don't use it every day), useful for a rarely used palette or feature, and unfolds the capability of EazyDraw making it fun to explore.

On the other hand, large parameter palettes can certainly get in the way for the experienced user. Problem Solved: EazyDraw's frequently used palettes have a "mini" form; the blue disclosure button (top right of the palette) is used to switch between these two forms. The mini form is small with abbreviated labels, absolutely minimizing consumed screen real estate. The parameters included and their order on the mini palette are fully user configurable, just drag a label to re-order.

The tall button found on the top right of each palette is an enhanced "window shade" button, with three height settings. Frequently used parameters are placed at the top of the palettes, so it is often useful to shorten the palette to free up the desk top. Click the button to "roll up" the palette and shorten it to the top two or three key parameters.

Parameter measurement units are chosen, independent of the drawing units, individually for each palette. A drawing might use feet and inches for graphic elements, but millimeters for specifying lengths of arrow heads. Different decimal precision settings for lengths, angles, and percentages found on parameter palettes are supported.

The color schemes and styles are fully configurable. On the EazyDaw Preferences Panel there is access to a full Theme definition panel. This allows you to choose colors and shapes for over 30 user interface elements. For example the color and shape of on screen editing control handles are easily changed allowing you to choose the best presentation for your project, current display screen, and eyes.

Chapter

2

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Drag and Drop Install

If you are familiar with the phrase "drag and drop install" and entering license codes then you may safely skip all but the introduction to this section. There is nothing new or magic here, this section is provided in explicit detail for those that don't do these things every day and appreciate clear written instructions.

EazyDraw Application: Install EazyDraw by dragging and dropping the EazyDraw Icon from install CD or Disk Image to your location of choice. A common location is the Applications folder on your primary hard drive, but this is not required.

It is recommended that you review the ReadMe file for the latest information.

Additions Pack: Move the Additions Pack folder from the install CD or Disk Image to your hard drive. The files in this folder may be viewed after the installation of EazyDraw is complete. The Additions Pack contains libraries, tutorials, examples, this manual in pdf form and other useful EazyDraw content. The examples are interesting to see how different kinds of drawings are constructed. The tutorial files combine live examples with text documentation, they are helpful for understanding how to work with some of the more advanced constructs such as blends, patterns, or technical drawing of dimensions. The libraries are special EazyDraw files of pre-drawn shapes.

These files are designed to be interactive, jump right in - make changes, experiment, explore, don't worry about your changes - you can always go back to the original.

Entering License

If EazyDraw is newly installed or unlicensed and running in the demo mode, it will ask for a license number each time it is launched. You are given the choice to enter a license or use in the demo/viewer mode. Note: If this message keeps returning after you have entered your license, there is a problem. In this case contact EazyDraw support and we will help you correct the situation.

After installing, you need to launch EazyDraw (double click on the application icon) in order to access the Enter License procedure.

If you have entered a valid license, entered it correctly, you will not see the "Enter License" prompt again. If it is repeating and you are entering the license more than once - something is wrong.

If EazyDraw is running in the demo/viewer mode, the EazyDraw Help menu will have a selection "Enter LIcense." This selection may be used to access the license entering panel.

The About EazyDraw window has a button, near the bottom for accessing the Enter License window. If you are running in the demo mode this button will offer "Enter New License." If you have entered a valid license correctly this button will offer "Clear License." The latter action will remove the license code from the computer.

The license code is grouped into 4 sets of letters and numbers. The letters l (el) and o (oh) and the number 0 are never present in the code. There are

no dashes or other non alpha numeric characters in the code. Upper case and lower case is important, 'A' is considered different than 'a' and will cause the license to fail.

If you received your license codes via email you may copy and paste the code directly from the email into the boxes provided. That would be 4 individual copy/paste actions - one set at a time. It is best to select the codes from the email by double clicking on a set of code characters (one of the four) rather than dragging across the text to select. The double click will make sure that no characters are left out of the copy action.

If you are typing the codes into the text boxes, click tab after each entry, or use the mouse and click in the next box. EazyDraw will not automatically advance to the next text box. After the last entry HIT TAB KEY, this or another mouse click is needed to inform EazyDraw that you are done entering. After the last tab key, EazyDraw performs a preliminary check on the license, if the license is potentially valid the Enter key will enable. If there has been a mistake or if the code is invalid the Enter key will not enable and remains grayed out.

When the Enter key enables - click it. Don't lose concentration and click one of the other keys like Learn More. Your license is not received by EazyDraw unless the Enter Key enables and is clicked. Again if the Enter key is not enabling - hit the Tab key on your keyboard - one more time.

You do not need to be connected to the internet to enter a valid license code and begin using all the capabilities of EazyDraw.

EazyDraw does not provide any overt indication that the license entered was valid. This is not user friendly, you need to remain proactive with this process. Normal polite and informative user feedback from EazyDraw during this process is very helpful to hackers and is not a good thing for us at EazyDraw and the community of honest paying customers. After entering your license, check the EazyDraw help menu. If the "Enter License" selection changed - you were successful. The best way to check is to quit EazyDraw and launch again, if you get the Enter License, Purchase, or Run in Demo Mode message - there was a mistake.

If you are having trouble, don't waste a great deal of time on this process. Contact EazyDraw support and get help quickly. We want to get you running as soon as possible.

The license code is the only difference between a "demo" version of EazyDraw and a fully licensed purchased and paid for copy of EazyDraw. If you have previously been evaluating EazyDraw or using it as a high

performance graphic reader, there is no need to purchase a CD or download a different version. The purchase process only involves receiving and entering a valid license code.

Preferences File

When EazyDraw is launched for the first time, a preferences file is created to save persistent settings that are maintained when you quit and restart EazyDraw. This file is saved in your OS X preferences folder that is found in the Library folder in your home folder. This file is named according to a convention established for OS X, based on registered world wide web domain names. EazyDraw's unique preferences name is "com.dekorra.EazyDraw.plist."

The plist file is a text file; it may be viewed with any text editor. The text is formated according to XML design conventions and more particularly as OS X property lists. These lists are made up of arrays and dictionaries. The values are self-documenting with descriptive English language names and values. If you have installed OS X's development tools there is an application called "Property List Editor" that may be used to view or edit the contents of the file.

It is, as you might expect, not advisable to edit or change the contents of the preferences file. It is very easy to damage the file with a simple text editor and this should be avoided. If the Property List Editor is used, the base file format is safe from damage and EazyDraw would likely be able to work through any errors introduced in this fashion.

Resetting Preferences

If the preferences file "~home/Library/Preferences/com.dekorra.EazyDraw.plist" is removed the next launch of EazyDraw will cause a new preferences file to be created with a fresh set of "Factory" settings. This can be a useful debugging technique if you are experiencing problems with EazyDraw. If there is a problem that is preventing EazyDraw from launching - this approach might provide a recovery path.

It is not necessary to "throw away" your preferences to debug by resetting preferences. A test reset is accomplished just by moving the preferences

file to another folder. Then after the test your preferences can be restored by putting the file back in the preferences folder.

Color Files

EazyDraw installs several color list files. These are placed in your Colors folder in the Library folder of your home directory. The files end with the extension "clr." The format is an OS X system defined format used for storing lists of colors.

The color lists are installed the first time that you access something in EazyDraw that requires the colors, for example: the Pattern palette. The color lists created by EazyDraw are used to provide the numerous cross hatch patterns and textures available via the Pattern fill capability of EazyDraw. You will also find the color tables that are needed for exporting to some of the Windows bitmap formats, the Web-Safe standard colors and Windows-16 colors.

If you create and save patterns with the EazyDraw's pattern palette, these are placed in this unique system folder.

The clr files created by EazyDraw are available as OS X standard colors to any OS X application that uses the system color picker palette technology. You will see these color lists and the colors found in each list in your standard color picker. They will show when any application, not just EazyDraw, uses the OS X system color picker.

Note, normally one uses the "color wheel" for picking colors - click one of the toolbar buttons on color palette to switch to "color list" mode, there you will see these colors. EazyDraw follows all standards carefully for creating these publicly available clr files. Problems can arise if other applications are not fully up-to-date with the standards. In particular some older applications do not support transparency. This can cause trouble if you use transparency with an EazyDraw generated pattern. In this situation the older application may experience problems trying to use these pattern colors, in most cases the pattern just shows up as black or perhaps a black background rather than clear areas, but "hang ups" are possible as well. Check the documentation and support resources for the other application if this situation arises.

Toolbar Support Files

The colors that are shown on the pop-down menus found in the EazyDraw toolbar are derived from a standard OS X color list, as described above. The color list used is determined by the selection of "Toolbar Colors" on the main EazyDraw preferences panel. The default color list is named "EazyDraw.clr" which provides a sequence of 256 color varied by hue, saturation and brightness. You may change the Toolbar's colors by changing the EazyDraw.clr file selection to a color list of your own design.

The textures that are shown on the pop-down menus found in the Toolbar are derived from a standard OS X color list, as described above. The textures are stored in the file "ToolbarTextures.ezdraw.clr." You can manage these, make additions or changes with EazyDraw using the Pattern palette, or any other application that supports editing *.clr files. If you "mess up" the file - just remove it and relaunch EazyDraw and the factory default table will be rebuilt.

The gradients shown in the gradient fill pull-down toolbar button are derived from a resource file that is contained in the EazyDraw application bundle - read ahead to the next section. A file called "ToolbarGradients.ezdata" is found in the package resources folder. The master gradients for the pop-down menu are derived from the gradients present in this file. Adding or changing the contents of this drawing will change the gradients provided by the gradient tool. The colors provided on the two color arrays are the same as those used for the Toolbar color picker as describe above.

Application Support Files

Mac OS X provides another location for applications to save persistent information, the Application Support folder which is found in the Library folder. EazyDraw uses this location for several persistent attribute files, most associated with a particular parameter palette.

When you save a dash pattern, or custom arrow you will find the information is stored in the associated file in this folder. The names are assigned in a self-documenting fashion, so it is easy to understand each file's use.

These are again plist or property list files, constructed with XML formated, human readable, English text. For example, if you save a custom Arrow head shape with a name - you will find that name as a key entry in this file if you inspect it with the Property List Editor or a text editor.

These files are all private to EazyDraw and you'll not find any interaction of these files with other applications on your system - in contrast to the *clr* files discussed above.

If you are a power user and create complex custom arrows, dash patterns, gradients, shadows, or special free transforms - you will want to back up this folder from time to time. In the event of a system problem, if these files are lost - your custom information will need to be re-created. If one or all of these files are removed, a new default file is created the next time you access the corresponding palette in EazyDraw. If you are reading this and you have lost any of these files, use OS X's Time Machine utility and recover the folders discussed above.

The Application Bundle

The EazyDraw application is represented in the Mac OS X finder with the icon shown to the right. It is customary to place the application in your Applications folder, but it is not necessary and the actual location of the application bundle is not important.

If you do a "get info" from the finder you'll see the current version information and size of the application. The size, as of this writing, is about 55 MBytes.

Some "old timers" may criticize this large size as bloated inefficient coding design. But if you look under the hood you will see that the application contains a great deal more than the actual "binary image" of the application. Requirements adding to the size include: help documentation, two copies of the core binary (one for Intel and one for PowerPC), and all icons in a dual rep TIFF format for display resolution independence, just to name a few.

This design makes it easy to uninstall EazyDraw, simply remove the Application bundle from your system. The actual binary image (program) and all the necessary associated files and resources are hidden from view and bundled into this single entity.

If you are interested, you can investigate the contents of the application bundle, select the EazyDraw application in the finder, control click and access the provided popup menu - select "Show Contents." Then you will see that the Application bundle is actually just another folder. If you investigate these hidden folders you'll find the actual binary EazyDraw

which is actually two binaries since it is a Universal Binary - one for Intel and another for the PowerPC. You will also find 100's or even 1000's of supporting elements called resources, icons, buttons, palettes, color tables, and the full online help *html* documentation.

Uninstall Checklist

Since EazyDraw is a drag and drop bundled application uninstall is trivial, just move the EazyDraw application to the trash and empty trash. There are a few other files created by EazyDraw, they are passive, unique and private. They should not interfere with your system or any other application on OS X. The .clr files are one exception, and are public and designed to be used by other OS X applications. You may remove them if you wish or if they are causing problems for the color picking actions of another application.

Here is a full list of all files automatically created by EazyDraw. The "~' sign, means "your home folder or directory", a unix convention.

EazyDraw Application
~/Library/Preferences/com.dekorra.EazyDraw.plist
~/Library/Application Support/EazyDraw
~/Library/Colors/ --

AW_Wallpaper.ezdraw.clr
Wood.ezdraw.clr
Texture.ezdraw.clr
Stone.ezdraw.clr
Squares.ezdraw.clr
Slants.ezdraw.clr
Shimmer.ezdraw.clr
Ripples.ezdraw.clr
Metal.ezdraw.clr
Lines.ezdraw.clr
Dot.ezdraw.clr
Cross.ezdraw.clr
Checker.ezdraw.clr
Brick.ezdraw.clr
Blocks.ezdraw.clr
ToolbarTextures.ezdraw.clr
ClarisDraw.ezdraw.clr
Toolbar.ezdraw.clr
EZD_Windows16.clr
EZD_Websafe.clr
EazyDraw.clr
DXF_HATCHES.clr
DXF.ezdraw.clr

Upgrading EazyDraw

Simple drag and drop installation and the bundled application design make upgrading EazyDraw a simple process. You need only quit the EazyDraw application and replace it with the newer version. EazyDraw's forward compatible file architecture will allow you to smoothly move on to the newer version.

It is wise to remove or at least hide older versions of EazyDraw. If you have more than one copy of EazyDraw on your system, a double click on a file that causes an automatic launch of EazyDraw may cause the older version to launch. This is problematic, especially if you continue working and do not notice that the older version is running. In debugging situations – always check the version directly from the About EazyDraw panel (found on leftmost menu). It can happen that a very old version hidden in a forgotten backup folder may get launched and supersede your newer version.

If you want to keep the old version of EazyDraw on your system, place the old copy in an archive file. Select the EazyDraw icon and choose Compress from the Finder's File main menu. This will let you safely keep a backup of the older version.

Files created with older versions of EazyDraw will be fully usable on a newer version of EazyDraw. However, care is needed when creating files with a newer version that may be viewed with an older version. If a newer graphic entity is included in the file, the older version of EazyDraw will still be able to open the file but will not be able to display the newer graphic form. In this case the older version of EazyDraw will display a red box with an explanation of the situation.

Other Files Provided

The EazyDraw CD or download disk image contains a folder named "Additions Pack". This folder contains a great deal of useful EazyDraw content, including a pdf copy of this manual.

The Examples folder and the Tutorials folder are interest when getting started with EazyDraw. The tutorials focus on specific activities. There is a good beginners tutorial with the title _DrawingBasics, it is at the top of the folder list if you arrange by name.

EazyDraw needs to be installed before opening these files. They are actual

EazyDraw drawings and they need the application to open them for you. EazyDraw does not need to be licensed to view these files. You may view, edit, print and save any size file in the unlicensed - free reader mode of EazyDraw. You do need a license if you want to add new content a drawing.

The examples folder is probably of lesser importance. It contains a few examples of drawings created with EazyDraw. They are useful to check out to see some of the things that are possible with vector drawing and EazyDraw.

The Tutorials folder is of more interest. Just move them to the location that works best for you. These drawing files each cover a specific topic that may be of interest. The titles of the files indicate the topic covered. We suggest that you keep a copy of the files since they may become valuable to you when at some point in the future you need to use a particular feature covered by one of the tutorials.

The "user library" capability of EazyDraw allows one to package complex graphics as readily accessible symbols or speciality smart drawing tools. The Library folder in the Additions Pack contains several EazyDraw library files with pre-drawn graphics ready for you to use in your own drawings. These are big time savers and can give your drawings a professional finished look. Chapter 17 discusses libraries in detail.

EazyDraw's primary documentation is provided in an HTML format accessed from the EazyDraw Help menu. This documentaion is complete and provides full documentation for the use of EazyDraw. The content is provided in an HTML format that has the advantage that it is well suited for browsing and searching. It is provided with rich hyper-links that allow one to find information and related detailed back-up documentation by simply clicking on these links.

The HTML format is not well suited for page-to-page or cover-to-cover study. It is better for searching and learning about a specific topic and related issues. And, the HTML version is not printer friendly, the content may be printed but the formatting is designed for viewing on a computer monitor.

A 350 page written manual is available for EazyDraw. This written manual is available as printed book or as an electronic PDF document. The electronic version is provided on CD and is included when the CD or Boxed version of EazyDraw is purchased. The electronic version is not provided with the download version of EazyDraw. The electronic version is provided in a printer friendly format and may be easily printed all or in part by the user.

The PDF documentation contains some of the same information as provided in the HTML-help pages, in some cases a topic may be covered in more detail in the read-along book format. But the primary difference is that this PDF version is designed for reading if not cover-to-cover at least chapter-by-chapter. This format may be perferable to some users. The bound printed manual is provided with the Boxed version of EazyDraw. This boxed version comes with the EazyDraw CD which contains the electronic version of the manual and the printed manual.

Finally, both the hard-copy printed and electronic-CD versions of the PDF manual may be purchased as a stand-alone item from the EazyDraw online store as part of the Additions Pack. This PDF file provides a table of contents of the PDF version so that user may evaluate whether or not they might require the PDF form of the documentation.

This is a Sample of the manual - sample only.